

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4, 6-30 and 33-55 are pending. Claim 5 is canceled. Claims 1, 4, 6, 30, and 33 are amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9-13, 15-26, 28-30, 33, 36, 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,866,889 (“Weiss”). Claims 4, 5, 8, 14, 27, 34, 35, 37 and 40-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Weiss in view of Official Notice.

Rejection of Claims 1, 6, 7, 9-13, 15-26, 28-30, 33, 36, 38, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6, 7, 9-13, 15-26, 28-30, 33, 36, 38 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Weiss. Accordingly, claims 1, 6, 30 and 33 have been amended herein. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 6, 30 and 33.

Because claims 7, 9-13, 15-26, 28, 29, 38 and 39 depend from claims 1, 6 and 33 it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance. Therefore, the undersigned respectfully requests that the pending rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 4, 5, 8, 14, 27, 34, 35, 37, and 40-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 5, 8, 14, 27, 34, 35, 37 and 40-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Weiss in view of Official Notice. Accordingly, claim 4 has been amended herein. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 4.

Moreover, claims 6 and 33 have been amended herein as discussed above. Because claims 8, 14, 27, 34, 35, 37 and 40-55 depend from claims 6 and 33, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance. Therefore, the undersigned respectfully requests that the pending rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The undersigned representative respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution might be advanced by discussing the application with the undersigned representative, in person or over the telephone, we welcome the opportunity to do so. In addition, if any additional fees are required in connection with the filing of this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the same to Deposit Account 50-4402.

Respectfully submitted,

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